

With Supporters' Help, Tosci's Reopens

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg
STAFF REPORTER

Beloved neighborhood ice cream store Toscanini's is back in business as of Friday, Jan. 25 after paying off part of its \$167,000 tax debt and making a schedule to repay the rest. Much of the money came from donations made by loyal customers — a situation one tax official called “unusual to the point of unprecedented.”

Toscanini's was seized on Thursday, Jan. 17 by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue because of outstanding tax debt that had accumulated since 2000. A few days after the seizure, a Toscanini's employee created a Web log at www.savetosci.com asking for donations to help pay the tax bill; the fundraiser met its goal of \$25,000 for a “down payment” by Friday, Jan. 25. On Jan. 26, the site reported that it had raised \$31,406.85.

Toscanini's made the \$25,000 down payment and negotiated a repayment plan with the Department of Revenue, owner Gus Rancatore said on the Web site, and the store reopened on the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 25.

Rancatore said he was surprised by the overwhelming support he had



Gus Rancatore, the owner of Toscanini's, received \$31,406.85 in a week's worth of donations from fans of his ice cream. The store was closed from Jan. 17 to Jan. 24 because of a past due tax bill.

received. “It was dumbfounding,” he said. “It was one of those freaky Internet things.” Although he said that he's still thinking about ways to thank the contributors, his blog

post announcing the fundraising success said that “we plan to post the first names of over 300 people.” Although January is traditionally a slow month for ice cream sales,

business has been brisker than normal, Rancatore said.

“Our folks in collections really

Toscanini's, Page 13

Senate Asks MIT, Others For Information About Endowment and Tuition

By Karen W. Arenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Senate Finance Committee, increasingly concerned about the rising cost of higher education, demanded detailed information last Thursday from the nation's 136 wealthiest colleges and universities on how they raised tuition over the last decade, gave out financial aid, and managed and spent their endowments.

The committee also asked about endowment-related bonuses paid to college presidents and endowment managers.

The move came as a record 76

colleges and universities achieved endowments of \$1 billion or more in the last fiscal year, according to a report released this week. Harvard's endowment, the largest, grew 20 percent, to \$34.6 billion, while Yale's, the second largest, grew 25 percent, to \$22.5 billion.

“Tuition has gone up, college presidents' salaries have gone up, and endowments continue to go up and up,” said Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the ranking Republican on the committee. “We need to start

Endowments, Page 9

As Federal Research Funds Decrease, More Scientists Leave U.S. to Work Overseas

By Madhusmita Bora
and Becky Bowers
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Increased competition and diminished federal funding have made it tougher for scientists to rely on the grants that once generously supported labs, research and training of future scientists. The shortage comes at a time when corporate research facilities, such as Bell Labs, have largely disappeared. The stagnant, and in some cases, dwindling money

pool has forced many scientists to bid the profession goodbye. Growing numbers are joining the flight overseas to more “research-friendly” countries such as China, South Korea, Singapore, and India.

One-quarter of the 700,000 students who left China between 1978 and 2003 in many cases to study in the United States have returned home. In India, about 60,000 high

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Athena Disk Quota to Increase

MIT will increase the size of Athena disk quotas from 1 gigabyte to 1.5 gigabytes on Tuesday, Feb. 5, said Garry P. Zacheiss '00, Information Services & Technology team leader, in an e-mail.

News Briefs

The Athena quota increase, which Zacheiss said was prompted by a large number of requests IS&T received in the fall, will affect users' home directories as well as the lockers of student activities and academic courses. People who need even more storage space can request a quota increase, up to a total of 6 gigabytes based on demonstrated need, from Athena User Accounts at accounts@mit.edu.

Although students are increasingly storing information on their own computers, storage on Athena “remains popular for the ease with which it allows publishing static Web content on campus,” said Zacheiss.

MIT's quota is relatively generous compared with that of peer institutions. Stanford University offers a 200 megabyte disk quota and a separate 200 megabyte e-mail quota, according to its Information Technology Services Web site. The Information Management Systems & Services department at the California Institute of Technology offers e-mail accounts with no size limit; it also offers 120 megabytes of Unix disk space and 70 megabytes of Windows disk space. Harvard

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A Novel IAP Goal: Facial Hair

By Jeff Guo
STAFF REPORTER

It's hard to think of anything that has twisted in the winds of pop culture quite like the great American mustache. Commonly praised and parodied, what was once the crown jewel of the '70s and the favored scion of Tom Selleck and Burt Reynolds is today a kitschy-creepy accessory that may or may not be making a comeback.

To Brian J. Pepper '08, it seemed to be an ideal Independent Activities Period project.

Pepper, who is sponsoring a month-long mustache-growing competition that culminates in a public judging this Sunday, said he was especially inspired by pictures he saw on the World Beard and Mustache Championship Web site: men with tentacle-like sideburns and tapestry-like beards. “People spend years growing these outrageous beards,” he said. “But it's slightly more ambitious than what we're aiming for.”

What, exactly, the participants in MITstache are aiming for is hard to say, partly because there are several different judging categories (including one for women) and partly because nobody takes facial hair seriously.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, an appropriately scruffy gang of about 13 men and women drawn mostly from the East Campus undergraduate dormitory met to check-in and trash talk.

“You know, your beard isn't looking too healthy now,” Matt N. Faulkner '08 said to Pepper, who is trying for a Hulk Hogan beard-stache.

“My beard is growing great, actually — whereas I can't even see that you have one from over here,” Pepper said.

“Uh oh, you guys have to have a manbeard fight now,” someone said. “Just rub your beards together!”

Eric D. Fogg '09 was lamenting

MITstache, Page 9



Sean C. Morton '08 samples roast pig at East Campus' annual Bad Ideas competition on Saturday, Jan. 26. Bad Ideas is a three-day event in which students come up with and pull off outrageous stunts.

This will be *The Tech's* last issue of Independent Activities Period. Regular Tuesday-Friday publication resumes on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

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WORLD & NATION

Pressure Mounts for Resignation at French Bank

By Nicola Clark and Katrin Bennhold

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Senior politicians here increased calls for the resignation of top executives at Societe Generale, ahead of the board's regular meeting, scheduled for early Wednesday.

"The pressure is very, very strong," one of the bank's directors said. "The politicians want a head to roll."

The director, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the situation, predicted that the bank's chairman and chief executive, Daniel Bouton — and possibly one or two other senior managers — would be asked to step down as early as Wednesday. But he and other board members stopped short of saying that Bouton's departure was a foregone conclusion.

Amid the increasing political pressure on the bank's management, employee groups revealed that three employees working on Societe Generale's trading desk had committed suicide in the last three years, at least partly because of stressful working conditions, the groups said.

Fed Is Poised to Deepen Its Rate Cut

By Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Having stunned investors one week ago by unexpectedly slashing short-term interest rates, the Federal Reserve appears poised to announce another rate cut on Wednesday as insurance against a recession.

But policymakers face difficult questions about how deep to cut rates, given that a recession has yet to materialize and that inflation pressures remain a nagging concern in the background.

On Wall Street, where the clamor about a recession remains at a fever pitch, investors are betting heavily that the central bank will lower the overnight federal funds rate by an additional half a percentage point, to 3 percent.

That decrease would come on top of last week's surprise reduction of three-quarters of a percentage point, and could set the stage for lower interest rates on home equity loans, car loans, and business lending.

But the outcome of the meeting is far from certain. While recent data on the housing market and retail sales have reinforced the impression of a stalling economy, economists were surprised on Tuesday by an unexpectedly strong jump in orders for durable goods in December.

White House Criticizes Envoy Over Iran

By Helene Cooper

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

White House officials expressed anger on Tuesday about an appearance in which the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Zalmay Khalilzad, sat beside the Iranian foreign minister at a panel of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Saturday.

The United States does not have diplomatic relations with Iran, and the Bush administration has limited its official high-level dealings with Iran to discussions about Iraq, primarily in Baghdad. Administration officials said that Khalilzad's appearance beside Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in Davos at a panel on Iranian foreign policy came as a surprise to senior Bush administration officials, who became aware that Khalilzad had appeared with Mottaki only when a video of the discussion appeared on YouTube on Tuesday.

Khalilzad was still in Europe and could not be reached for comment. His spokesman, Richard Grenell, characterized Khalilzad's appearance beside Mottaki as "just a multilateral conversation with the moderator."

McCain Beats Out Romney in Florida, Giuliani Distant Third

By Michael Cooper and Megan Thee

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MIAMI

Sen. John McCain edged out Mitt Romney to win the delegate-rich Florida primary on Tuesday night, solidifying his transformation from left-for-dead candidate to a front-runner and dealing a devastating blow to the presidential hopes of Rudolph W. Giuliani, whose distant finish here threatened to doom his candidacy.

McCain's narrow victory showed he could win in a state where only Republicans were allowed to vote — not just in states like New Hampshire and South Carolina, where his earlier victories were fueled in part by independent voters. And in Florida, even a slim victory is sweet: The state awards its 57 delegates, the most of any contest yet, on a winner-take-all basis.

With 73 percent of the precincts reporting, McCain had 36 percent of the vote, Romney 31 percent, Giuliani 15 percent, and Mike Huckabee 14 percent.

In a concession speech, Giuliani sounded very much like a defeated candidate, saying the fight for his ideals would continue despite the elec-

tion results.

"Elections are about a lot more than candidates," he said. "Elections are about fighting for a cause larger than ourselves. They are about identifying the great challenges of our times and proposing new solutions."

McCain now seems headed into a two-person race with Romney. The two have shown little affection for each other, and they signaled a willingness in Florida to attack intensely as they struggled to appeal to the conservative and evangelical voters who form the backbone of the Republican Party.

Romney, in St. Petersburg, sounded like a candidate who intended to battle on. He continued to call for change in Washington, and got in what sounded like another swipe at McCain when he said America needed a president "who has actually had a job in the real economy."

As he tries to stop McCain, Romney is trying to harness the weakening economy to his advantage by emphasizing his background in business and saying he has the ability to lead the nation back to prosperity. McCain has built his campaign around national security themes, playing off his military

background and support for the war in Iraq.

Romney has sought to portray McCain as a Democrat in disguise, pointing to his stances on immigration, climate change and campaign finance regulation, all of which depart from Republican orthodoxy. McCain's campaign has sought to label Romney as unprincipled and willing to adjust his positions on issues like abortion for political gain.

Both of them now face the challenge of rallying the party establishment and grass-roots conservatives behind them — or at least not around the other.

While most of the attention in Florida was on the Republicans, Democratic voters gave Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton a victory in a virtually uncontested race. The Democratic Party had stripped the state of its delegates as a punishment for moving its primary earlier in the year, and the leading candidates refrained from campaigning there.

McCain, of Arizona, emerges from Florida with an opportunity to get back to where he was at the beginning of this roller coaster of an election season: the anointed front-runner.

White House Reconsiders Plan To Reduce Troop Levels in Iraq

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Thom Shanker

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Four months after announcing troop reductions in Iraq, President Bush is now sending signals that the cuts may not continue past this summer, a development likely to infuriate Democrats and renew concerns among military planners about strains on the force.

Bush has made no decisions yet on troop reductions to follow those he announced last September. But White House officials said Bush had been taking the opportunity, as he did in Monday's State of the Union address, to prepare Americans for the possibility that, when he leaves office a year from now, the military presence in Iraq will be just as large as it was a year ago, or even slightly larger.

These officials, who spoke on con-

dition of anonymity, said Bush wanted to tamp down criticism that a large, sustained presence in Iraq would harm the overall health of the military — a view held not only by Democrats, but by some members of his own Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Within the Pentagon, senior officers have struggled to balance the demands of the Iraq war against the competing demands to recruit, train, and retain a robust and growing ground force. That institutional tension is personified by two of Bush's top generals, David H. Petraeus, the top commander in Iraq, and George W. Casey Jr., the Army chief of staff. Petraeus' mission is to win the war; Casey must also worry about the health of the whole Army.

"We're concerned about the health of the force as well, but the most important thing is that they succeed in Iraq," said one senior White House official, adding, "If the command-

ers on the ground believe we need to maintain the troop numbers at the current level to maintain security for a little while longer, then that's what the president will do."

That strong White House tilt in favor of Petraeus comes as he prepares to testify before Congress in April about the next step in Iraq. In September, based on Petraeus' earlier recommendation, Bush announced that he intended to withdraw five combat brigades and Marine units — roughly 20,000 troops — from Iraq by July. That would leave 15 combat brigades in place.

In his address to Congress, Bush spoke of those reductions, but not of any future ones.

What a continuing commitment of 15 brigades — more than 130,000 troops — would mean for the Army as a whole is said to be a major concern of Casey, among others on the joint staff.

WEATHER

Warm vs. Cold

By Garrett P. Marino

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As is frequent this time of the year, there can be a considerable difference in temperature over a short distance, i.e. a large temperature gradient. Fronts are usually responsible for these gradients, while the fronts are associated with low-pressure systems. One such low-pressure system located over the northern Great Lakes region yesterday sent a cold front plunging down into the Plains and Midwest. On the east side of the front, temperatures were generally in the 50s and 60s°F (10–20°C), whereas on the back side temperatures plunged as low as -30°F (-35°C)!

We won't be experiencing temperatures as low as that anytime soon (Boston's all-time record low is -18°F), as the airmass will moderate substantially before reaching our region. Look for rain and breezy conditions to develop early this morning and continue into the late morning, with perhaps some sunshine before the sun sets. We will have a pleasant day on Thursday, followed by another system moving through for Friday. The good news is that the weekend looks to be a bargain for this time of the year.

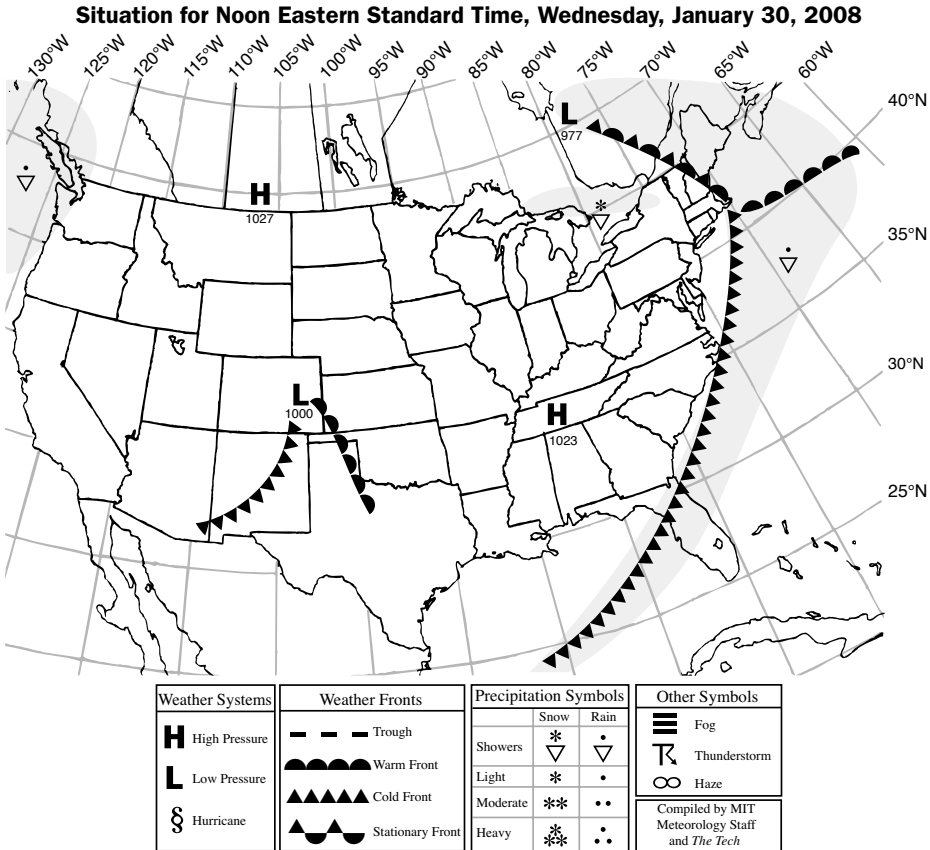
Extended Forecast

Today and tonight: Rain in the morning followed by clearing in the afternoon. Breezy. Highs in the upper 40s°F (9°C). Lows in the mid 20s°F (-4°C).

Thursday: Sunny with increasing clouds during the evening. Highs near 40°F (4°C). Lows in the upper 20s°F (-2°C).

Friday: A mix of snow and rain in the morning, changing to all rain by noon. Highs in the lower 40s°F (5°C). Lows in the mid 30s°F (2°C).

This weekend: Partly sunny and pleasant. Highs in the mid 40s°F (7°C). Lows in the upper 20s°F (-2°C).



In Bipartisan Move, Economic Stimulus Deal Passed in House

By David M. Herszenhorn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The House on Tuesday voted to approve a \$146 billion fiscal stimulus package, hoping to seal a fast-paced deal with President Bush on a combination of tax rebates and business incentives aimed at jolting the economy with new spending.

But the deal, which would be the most striking show of bipartisan cooperation since Democrats won control of Congress in 2006, was at risk as Senate Democrats forged ahead with their own, more expensive plan and jockeyed over what to include in it.

The House plan was approved by an overwhelming vote of 385-35. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Repub-

lican leader, Rep. John A. Boehner of Ohio, immediately called on the Senate to simply adopt the House bill without changes, as did Bush as he signed an executive order at the White House.

“The temptation is going to be for the Senate to load it up. My concern is that we need to get this bill out of the Senate and on my desk so the checks can get in the hands of our consumers, and our businesses can be assured of the incentives necessary to make investments,” Bush said.

But there was little indication that the Senate had any intention of simply bowing to the lower chamber.

Instead, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Finance Committee, advanced a \$163 billion stimulus package that he said was

better, despite warnings from House leaders and the White House that he could derail the agreement or plunge the nation too far in debt.

And while the one-year difference in cost of the two plans would seem to be \$17 billion, House officials criticized the Senate for trying to blur the full price tag by pushing some expenses into 2009 — making the two-year cost of the Senate package almost \$196 billion compared with almost \$161 billion for the House version.

Both plans focus on personal tax rebates and incentives for businesses intended to spur spending. The Senate plan also extends unemployment benefits for 13 weeks beyond the 26 weeks currently provided in most states — at a cost of \$10 billion in 2008.

China Cracks Down on Dissidents As 2008 Olympic Games Approach

By Jim Yardley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

When state security agents burst into his apartment on Dec. 27, Hu Jia was chatting on Skype, the Internet-based telephone system. Hu’s computer was his most potent tool. He disseminated information about human rights cases, peasant protests, and other politically touchy topics even though he often lived under de facto house arrest.

Hu, 34, and his wife, Zeng Jinyan, are human rights advocates who spent much of 2006 restricted to their apartment in a complex with the unlikely name of Bo Bo Freedom City. She blogged about life under detention,

while he videotaped a documentary titled “Prisoner in Freedom City.” Their surreal existence seemed to reflect an official uncertainty about how, and whether, to shut them up.

That ended on Dec. 27. Hu was dragged away on charges of subverting state power while Zeng was bathing their newborn daughter, Qianci. Telephone and Internet connections to the apartment were severed. Mother and daughter are now under house arrest. Qianci, barely two months old, is probably the youngest political prisoner in China.

For human rights advocates and Chinese dissidents, Hu’s detention is the most telling example of what they describe as a broadening crackdown

on dissent as Beijing prepares to stage the Olympic Games in August. In recent months, several dissidents have been jailed, including a former factory worker in northeastern China who collected 10,000 signatures after posting an online petition titled “We Want Human Rights, Not the Olympics.”

“This is a coordinated cleansing campaign,” said Teng Biao, a legal expert who has known Hu since 2006. “All the troublemakers — including potential troublemakers — are being silenced before the Olympic Games.”

With fewer than 200 days before the Aug. 8 opening ceremonies, Beijing is in the full throes of preparations.

Oh, Yugoslavia! How They Long For Your Firm Embrace

By Dan Bilefsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

This spring, Bostjan Troha and 50 of his friends from across the former Yugoslavia plan to celebrate the official 116th birthday of the former dictator Josip Broz Tito with a pilgrimage in boxy Yugoslav-era Fico cars to Tito’s Croatian birthplace and his marble tomb in Belgrade.

To mark the occasion, Troha has hired a Tito impersonator and dozens of child actors, who will wear Yugoslav partisan berets, wave Yugoslav flags, and applaud enthusiastically after the impersonator’s address. The revelers will down shots of Slivovitz, the Serbian national drink, and dance to the lurching melodies of Yugoslav folk music along the 360-mile route.

Troha’s group of pilgrims will be modest compared with the 20,000 from the former Yugoslavia’s six republics — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, and the Republic of Macedonia — who traveled daily to the tomb during communist times after Tito’s death in 1980.

But sociologists here say it reflects a trend across the Balkans they call Yugonostalgia, in which young and old yearn for the past — even the authoritarian one — as they struggle with a legacy of wars and economic hardship.

Methodists Who Oppose Bush Library Force a Vote

By Gretel C. Kovach
and Ralph Blumenthal
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DALLAS

Methodists opposed to a George W. Bush Presidential Library, museum and policy institute at Southern Methodist University here are mounting a last-ditch effort to block a nearly completed deal by throwing the decision to a regional church conference in July.

Opponents of the project, including current and retired bishops and faculty members hostile to President Bush over the Iraq war and social issues, say church rules require that an agreement be submitted to the 290 elected delegates of the church’s South Central Jurisdiction. The Rev. Andrew Weaver, a research psychologist in New York who organized an online petition drive against the library project last year that he said had drawn more than 11,200 signatures, said about 35 percent of the delegates were “progressives” opposed to the plan.

“We need to inform and recruit 16 percent of the moderate delegates to block the project,” Weaver said.

But officials at Southern Methodist, which is owned by the jurisdiction, say they already have the church’s approval, through the jurisdiction’s Mission Council and College of Bishops, to lease land to the George W. Bush Foundation and are close to an agreement to do so.

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MIT Serves Students, Not RIAA

Natasha Plotkin's article ("RIAA Sends Institute 19 Settlement Letters Alleging Infringement," Jan. 23, 2008) mentions that one of the 23 letters sent by the RIAA in May 2007 was unable to be tied to an individual student. This could be improved to 23 of 23 if Information Services & Technology purged DHCP logs frequently, quicker than the time required to execute a subpoena.

This recommendation has been made several times previously, and we still see MIT holding onto data that permit these extralegal

fishing expeditions. I call on IS&T to write a *Tech* column defending their support of this unchecked aggression by the RIAA.

Should IS&T decline to do so, I suggest that students deploy a parallel wireless network in the dorms, using stock wireless routers without Kerberos authentication and DHCP logging, allowing students to use the Internet freely and anonymously.

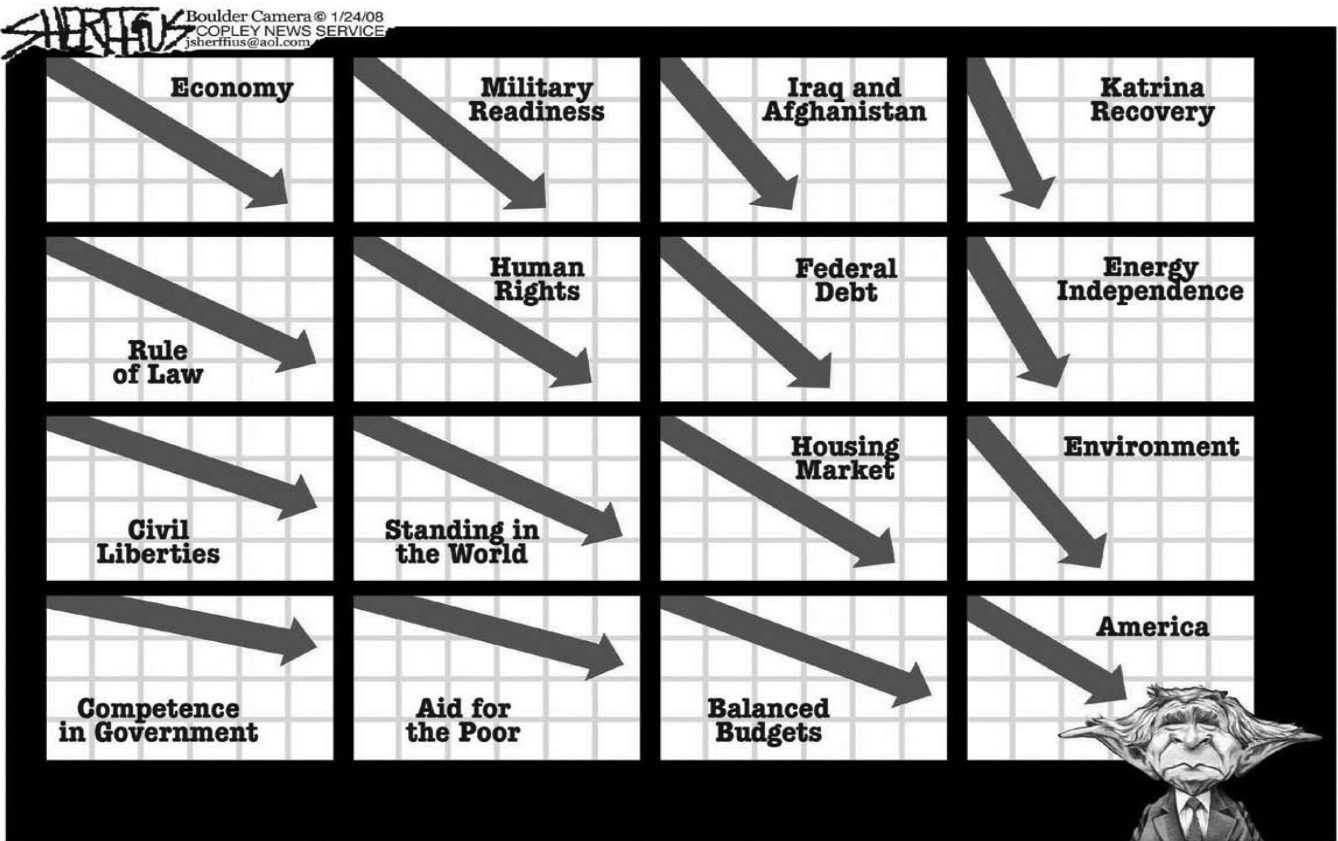
Amal Dorai G

New Tech Shuttle 'Isle Ways'

The MIT Parking and Transportation Of-

fice is to be commended for finally modifying their shuttle luggage policy to allow small bags and carry-ons so that students traveling light may now actually be shuttled to the MBTA train station. This policy amendment is clearly indicated by (even more) ugly, curling paper signs held up at haphazard angles with masses of sticky tape. And said bags may not be placed on the seats or in the "Isle ways." Apparently PTO has truly outdone themselves by fitting the shuttles with the latest technology — small islands. May I suggest that next year's budget include line items for a laminating machine, decent tape, and a dictionary?

Nevan Clancy Hanumara G



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Angeline Wang, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

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ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

And You Thought Your Bridesmaid Dress Was Bad?
Heigl a Perfect Fit in '27 Dresses'

By Jillian A. Berry
ARTS EDITOR

27 Dresses
Directed by Anne Fletcher
Written by Aline Brosh McKenna
Starring: Katherine Heigl, James Marsden,
and Edward Burns
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

Romantic comedies may be formulaic, and they may not bring anything new to the art of cinema. The plots may be contrived, and the people in them may be so good-looking that even if the plot were realistic, you would know it is still a fantasy world. And all of life's major moments may be compressed into a two-minute montage set to pop music. But at the end of the day, romantic comedies can be entertaining. Sure, I like it when a film makes me think and contributes to my understanding of the world, but I'm also perfectly happy when a film entertains. Just like people watching sports want to see others fulfill their dreams in an amusing manner, romantic comedies are a girl's (and sometimes a guy's) dream romance played out on the big screen. "27 Dresses" is certainly entertaining.

The plot is pretty simple. Jane (played by Katherine Heigl) is a compulsive planner who thinks it is her duty to take care of everyone around her, including her boss (Edward Burns) who she also happens to love. Unfortunately, he only sees her as his assistant, and when Jane's beautiful little sister Tess (Malin Akerman) comes to town, he falls for her. Now, Jane, who has been a bridesmaid 27 times (hence the title) has to plan her sister's wedding to the man she secretly loves. All the while, Kevin (James Marsden), a man who hates weddings, yet writes about them for a newspaper, is questioning Jane's infatuations with weddings while

writing pieces on Jane and her sister. Needless to say, romance and humor pervade and you can probably guess the ending now.

One of the best features of "27 Dresses" is that it involves so many weddings, and not from the bride's perspective but from the wedding party's — in particular, the maid of honor's. These wedding days are not the happiest days of Jane's life, though she does love weddings and doesn't mind wearing some of the most ridiculous dresses known to man. Exceptionally funny is the montage where all of the brides tell Jane that if she just shortens her dress she can wear it again, when we all know that no matter how nice the bridesmaid dress, no one ever wears them again.

However, perhaps what is most amazing about this film is Heigl's ability to take on the persona of someone who could be overlooked by her boss, father, and spoiled sister. I mean, let's be honest, Katherine Heigl is gorgeous, but in the movie, you actually accept her as someone who fades into the background. Some of this is due to her darker hair, but mostly it is her acting. You see her struggle to be supportive of her sister while her own heart is breaking. And you squirm at how awkward she can be when near her boss. While in reality Heigl certainly doesn't mind speaking in front of a crowd, her character would shrink away from such a responsibility (unless, of course, she had to make a toast at a wedding).

In addition to Heigl's performance, Marsden gives an understated yet entertaining performance as a man who doesn't like weddings but must go to them for work. He never makes the huge (and unrealistic) romantic gesture, but the audience falls in love with him gradually so that by the end the people in my theater were clapping. Sure, the movie is no masterpiece, but it's a nice break from reality, and at the very least, will make you realize that your bridesmaid dress could have been so much worse.



BARRY WETCHER—20TH CENTURY FOX

Jane (played by Katherine Heigl) tries on her 27 bridesmaid dresses for news writer Kevin (James Marsden).

CONCERT LISTINGS

Twenty-Nine Days Means
Fewer Days for Concerts

But Also Fewer Psets! Good for You!

By Sarah Dupuis
ARTS EDITOR

This February will be a slow month in Boston, that's for sure. Many of you are returning to school after fabulous vacations, and even if I've picked a poor adjective, just about anything beats the constant churn of formulas and papers this new semester signifies. While you acclimate to the returning workload, here are the few selections that caught my eye for the month of February. They may be slim, but they're mighty, so load up!

Sunday, Feb. 3

Sister Suvi
The Middle East (Upstairs), All Ages, \$8

All men love the Super Bowl. No man is an island. Sister Suvi features Patrick Gregoire of the band Islands. These three truths converge on Super Bowl Sunday when Sister Suvi will bring their theatrical folk rock to the Middle East Upstairs. And hey, if you get too antsy for the score, you're only a short sprint from campus.

Thursday, Feb. 7

Cat Power
The Orpheum, All Ages, \$29

Matador's long-touted press release about Ms. Marshall states that she can stop time. Apparently, she can travel through it as well; her latest record, Jukebox, features only two originals, and covers everyone from James Brown to Bob Dylan to Liza Minnelli. She'll take to the stage with her Dirty Delta Blues Band this February, filling the Orpheum with her molasses-drenched interpretations of all things past and present.

Friday, Feb. 8

Liars
Paradise Rock Club, 18+, \$12

Experimental rockers that've been labeled dance-punk, chant-pop, concept artists, and drum-heavy, Liars released their fourth LP last year, self-titled. Choose your own genre! Fun for all!

Saturday, Feb. 9

The Cliks, Vivian Darkbloom
T.T. the Bear's Place, 18+, \$10

The Cliks! They're a mildly famous Canadian rock band! Vivian Darkbloom! They're an almost complete-

ly unknown group of apparent Nabokov enthusiasts, and at least one of them goes to MIT! That's like, two Lolita-referencing bands in one university! Be true to your school! Rah, rah!

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Death to the Pixies
T.T. the Bear's Place, 18+, \$7

Cover bands. I secretly think they're the shit. Since I'm never going to get to see Black Francis and co. in their Boston band heyday, I'll settle for these youthful impersonators, who, based on their live mp3s, seem to know exactly where their minds are.

Thursday, Feb. 14

Magnetic Fields
Somerville Theatre, 18+, \$27.50

You could say, in a way, that romance is magnetic, and therefore it's appropriately corny of me to recommend a Magnetic Fields concert on the Hallmark Holiday to top 'em all. Celebrate St. Valentine's Day with 69 Love Songs, because nothing says amour like synthpop. Not that I'd know, because I didn't get anything for V-Day last year. (I hope you're reading this, Julian.)

Saturday, Feb. 23

Super Furry Animals (with Times New Viking)
Paradise Rock Club, 18+, \$17.50

Welsh psychedelic rock teams up with relatively new Matador font enthusiasts for a night of surely "arty" noise. TNV is touring in support of highly acclaimed new record *Rip It Off*, which features the oddly titled but totally telling track "Times New Viking vs. Yo La Tengo." I'm sooo there.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Deep Blue Something
T.T. the Bear's Place, 18+, \$7

To be completely honest, I don't know anything by this band other than what's off the 1995 "Breakfast at Tiffany's" vehicle *Home*, but their MySpace claims they're Texan shoegazers, and the mp3s back up that claim. Anyway, almost any formerly popular '90s band is worth seeing a decade after their heyday, at least in my book, and as I recall, I think we'll both kind of like it.

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Pseudoscience by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

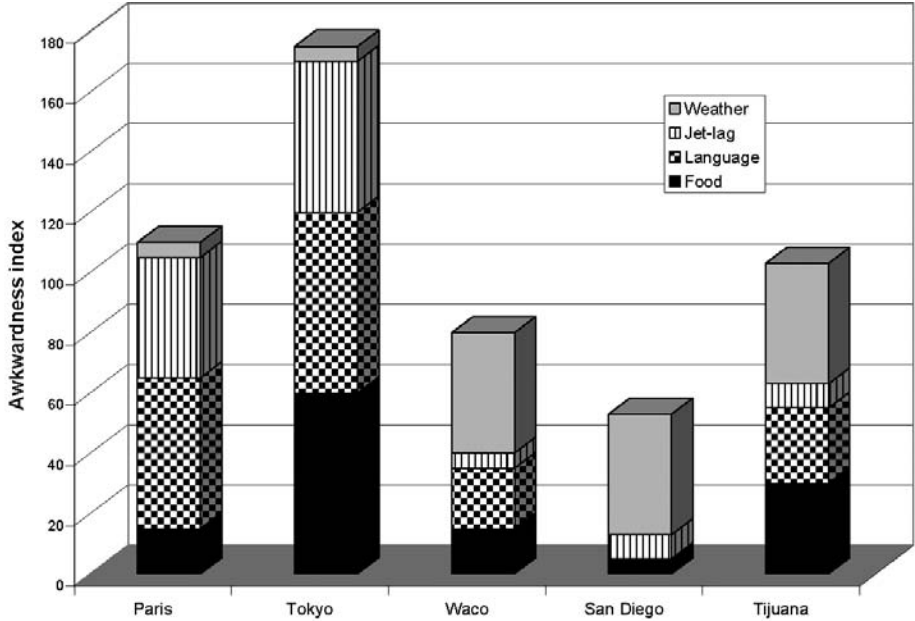


Figure 25. The graph shows the awkwardness index (AI) for a Bostonian traveler to different cities. The index measures the relative discomfort a traveler experiences because of differences in factors such as food, weather, etc. compared to that of Boston. While the language barrier is significant in Tokyo due to lack of English speakers, that in Paris is equally large due to residents who choose to speak exclusively in French. Surprisingly, the language barrier is notable in Waco, with the Texan accent being mainly to blame. The marked increase in food-AI between the neighboring cities San Diego and Tijuana has been explained by Moctezuma's Revenge. Although not evident from the graph, the effects of jet-lag are pervasive, and exacerbate all other AI factors.

su | do | ku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution on page 16.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ACROSS

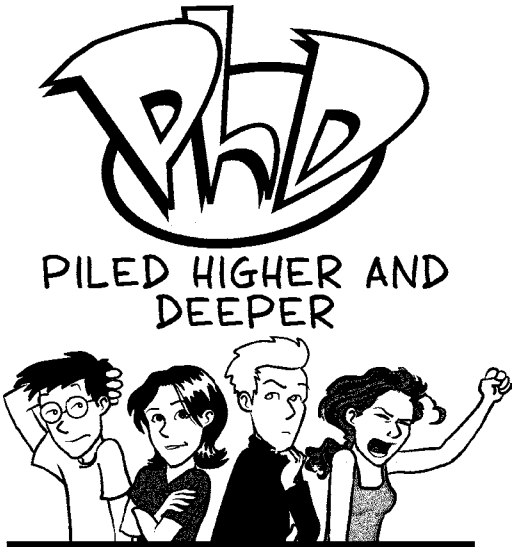
- 1 Diplomat's asset
- 5 Lake in northern Italy
- 9 Skater's edge
- 14 Woody Guthrie's boy
- 15 D.C. office of note
- 16 Desert refuges
- 17 Enjoy a book
- 18 Reign
- 19 Portents
- 20 Day/MacRae musical
- 23 Blackjack
- 24 Two-finger sign
- 25 DDE's opponent
- 26 Heart rhythm
- 29 Harmless cyst
- 32 Song of exultation
- 35 Anger
- 36 Drill
- 37 1954 Oscar winner
- 41 Organic compound
- 42 Expression of derision
- 43 Assistants
- 44 Weekday abbr.
- 45 Canine rest stop?
- 48 Catch some rays
- 49 Operated

DOWN

- 1 Edible tubers
- 2 Sports place
- 3 Part of a vise
- 4 Fuss
- 5 Eye membrane
- 6 Prefertilization seeds
- 7 Mauritania neighbor
- 8 Cassini of fashion
- 9 Knitted shoe
- 10 Ewe's offspring
- 11 On the briny
- 12 Declare untrue
- 13 Last letter of words?
- 21 Of sheep

- 22 More fit
- 26 Actress Arlene
- 27 Ten-percent donation
- 28 Mine find
- 29 Lumber
- 30 Sea eagle
- 31 Snares
- 32 Verse
- 33 Part of A.D.
- 34 Collar choice
- 36 Sailor's jail
- 38 High-pitched hum
- 39 Bern's river
- 40 Animals of a region
- 45 Tyrannical leader
- 46 Kudos
- 47 Series of ranked stages
- 48 Vertical post
- 50 Choreographer Abdul
- 51 Cruise ship
- 52 Beginning
- 53 Just
- 54 "Hud" star Patricia
- 55 Leaders of flocks
- 56 Leave out
- 57 Insect pest
- 58 To the rear

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CAMPUS LIFE

Squid vs. Whale

Open Mic Night

By Charles Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

So it turns out MIT gives you four weeks in January to “improve yourself.” Well, ain’t that nice. This year, I wanted to do something really special with my Independent Activities Period (other than go skiing). I wasn’t about to learn Java or take a house course; instead, I wanted to do something really memorable. I wanted to tackle my fears head on and put myself out on a limb. Mainly, I wanted to do something outrageous enough that I’d never get taken seriously again in my life. At first I was thinking ice SCUBA diving.

This is how my joke IAP project started. But then three little words sneaked into my mind and turned my IAP project into a Monster. Three innocently devastating words: Open Mic Night.

Next to slam poetry, Open Mic Night is quite possibly the world’s most awkward social setting. Random strangers get together and pour their hearts out over the subtle strumming of simple chords and sips of lattes and brews. Earnest ladies get on stage and whisper quietly about social injustice, men belt Ryan Adams covers out of tune. It’s as outlandish as you could ever dream. Like the existentialist Satre said, Hell is Open Mic Night.

Put it this way, if I could make it through an Open Mic Night, impossible was nothing.

But I wanted to make it harder than that. I couldn’t just do it once; that would be over in a nervous flash. I had to make it a sustained challenge. I hashed out the terms with some friends and came up with an arrangement: I had to attend a week’s worth of Open Mic Nights. My

mission: to play only novelty songs in a variety of styles, changing night after night. The only constant: I had to wear a coat and tie (mostly to confuse people). My goal: to blow by everyone with just how outrageous my stunt was. I’d play it straight, they’d take it seriously, heads would explode with wonderment.

This was the plan. Little did I know how far I would venture into the heart of darkness.

My mission took me through the depths of Cambridge. I infiltrated the dimly lit underworld of hip bars and coffee shops, immersing myself into the seductive allure of being an Open Mic artist.

Open Mic Night people are a different breed: they’re exhibitionists, they’re shameless self promoters, they’re really into MySpace. The Cult of Open Mic is founded on unsaid rules. Never leave right after your song, but stay to listen to the people after you (or else). Be supportive of people on stage. Always clap. Never insult someone, but at the same time, never unduly compliment someone. Open Mic Night is not an excuse to hit on musicians. If you’re going to hit on someone, base it at least on a semi-sincere interest in their music. Either way, don’t expect a number. MySpace pages seem to be the currency of the Open Mic romantic scene. Buy a drink from the place hosting and remember to tip your bartender; lord knows it ain’t easy to listen to Open Mic Night all the time.

These rules I learned mainly by error. The trials were even harder. The first time I got on stage to sing my novelty songs, I stammered out my intro and flew through my songs before I even knew it. My performance was good enough to garner a few huhs and one backhanded compliment. By the second night, time began to slow down, I was able to banter with the crowd in a non awkward fashion, and believe it or not, for a moment I really enjoyed being on stage. By the third night, I had it down to an art. I learned how to turn sound checking into a comedic monologue. I learned the art of giving short and sweet introductions to songs. I was a rocker and I rocked out. Like George Costanza, I always left them wanting more.

And so it hit me. I kinda liked being an Open Mic artist.

I wondered, when does a joke become more



LAUREN PHILLIPS-THORIN

Impossible is nothing when you’re surrounded by pictures of bunnies.

than a joke? More importantly, when do you give in and realize that you’re the punch line? At what point does my buddy Sam running the Charlottesville marathon in short shorts to raise money for Dick Cheney’s retirement fund become something more than a horrifying spectacle? I really don’t know. But what I do know is that I kind of really liked doing Open Mic Night as a joke, and even scarier, I think part of me may have liked it genuinely.

It was exhausting pretending to be an Open Mic artist, but it had its moments. About three out of 10 musicians were either semi professionals or way better than they thought they were and I found myself really digging their work. It made me wonder. What brings someone to do this seriously? There’s no denying that being on stage is a rush, but having been on stages before, Open Mic was something different. Maybe it was the egalitarian aspect of it all. It wasn’t that people were here to see you, it was more that each person who got on

stage was there to test their own courage and creativity. It’s probably why “American Idol” is so popular. Everyone thinks deep down inside that they may have “it.” Very few people actually get on stage and find out for sure, for in never trying, one can perpetuate the dream a little longer and always wonder, What if?

In going through with my Joke Open Mic IAP Tour 2008, I inadvertently found out that I didn’t have “it.” But that was probably the best part. Finding out you’ll never be a rock star can be a real relief. Because after that all or nothing gambit dissipates in your mind, you realize that there’s a middle ground, a strange gray place in bars and coffee shops inhabited by ordinary people more talented than you ever imagined. It’s a place where for a few minutes every night, anyone can get on stage and give it their best shot. A place where once you get on stage and swallow down all the butterflies, you too can rock out.

See you at Open Mic Night.

Joke Open Mic IAP Tour 2008 Statistics

- ¶ Novelty songs played: 13
- ¶ Drinks consumed: 12 (2 received, 2 bought for others)
- ¶ Compliments received: 6 (3 backhanded)
- ¶ MySpace contacts received: 3
- ¶ Gigs offered: 1 (0 followed through)
- ¶ Best part of doing this story: When Gmail hears you talking about open mic, it sends you an ad asking “Are you emo? Take the emo quiz.”

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“I’ve made a huge mistake. Now what?”

“What’s so scary about online dating?”

“I never want to grow up, is grad school really the only option?”

“Help, I’ve suddenly realized I hate physics!”

“I think I like this girl in my discussion section, what should I do?”

Brouhaha Rhythm

Pistol Whipped by the Fashion Police

By Michael Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

I feel sort of weird wearing a Hawaiian shirt in the middle of a raging snowstorm, but college has an interesting way of economizing one’s wardrobe, or at least my wardrobe. I can only store so many clothes in my dresser (meaning, on my floor), I can only afford to do so many loads of laundry, and I can only hang so many clothes in my cubicle — I mean, my dorm room. Yes, I hang dry my clothes, and unless you have frequent company that might be put off by damp unmentionables hanging from the ceiling, I will gladly explain the merits of hang drying if you ask me. Go ahead, ask.

In all seriousness, being up here at MIT means having to learn to coordinate my own clothes for the first time, and without the benefit of most of my clothes, which were largely left behind. For those of you who have never struggled with fashion sense, I would describe the feeling as comparable to trying to cook a spaghetti dinner with a Bunsen burner, a stalk of wheat, and a plastic spork. Hence, the rampant thrift shopping. I’ve only recently managed to discern the location of the Garment District, which means that you will probably see me experimenting in increasingly weird looking clothes in the coming months, as if my brown coat, maroon suspenders, and tight pants weren’t odd enough.

As you might imagine, I am not the kind of person one might call “fash-

ionably inclined.” If fashionability were measured in terms of slope or heart rate, I would be a flat-liner all around. (Evidently, the same holds true for my ability to form metaphors.) I track it back to my kindergarten graduation, when all of the other boys were wearing mini-suits complete with clip-on ties while I stood sheepishly in something resembling bright yellow lederhosen. Suffice it to say that it was not the proudest moment of my childhood, although being in kindergarten still meant that a social faux pas could pass for “cute” rather than “ridiculous.” Frankly, I miss those days. You never hear “College Students Say the Darnedest Things” accompanied with a smile.

I continue to be amazed by those who can put together an outfit in which the individual articles of clothing go well both with each other as well as the wearer. The most I know about my wardrobe is which sweater makes me look the slimmest and whether or not something is inside out. I mean, I know to an extent what does and doesn’t look good, but that’s like saying I know whether or not a piece of steak will give me food poisoning. It’s a useful skill that helps me get by, but it doesn’t make me a master chef. So, you fashionistas out there, I acknowledge your mastery. Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to go put on my “Hot Stuff” apron and get something to eat. All this talk about steaks and spaghetti is making me hungry.

If fashionability were measured in terms of slope or heart rate, I would be a flat-liner all around.

Senate Asks Universities to Detail Endowment Use

Endowments, from Page 1

seeing tuition relief for families go up just as fast.”

The committee, which has a central role in setting tax policy, has been pressuring universities to use more of their wealth for financial aid and threatening to require them to spend a minimum of 5 percent of their endowments each year, as foundations must. The committee pointed out that donations to universities and their endowment earnings were both tax-exempt.

Seeking to head off Congressional action, wealthy universities have been rushing in recent months to expand financial aid, in some cases using more of their endowments to increase assistance to low-income and upper-income students alike. Harvard recently said it would increase aid for families earning up to \$180,000 a year, and Yale said it would help families with annual incomes of as much as \$200,000.

The request for information came in a letter, signed by Mr. Grassley and the committee chairman, Senator Max Baucus, Democrat of Montana. It provided a strong indication that the committee was not backing off the idea of requiring colleges to spend more of their endowments.

Mr. Grassley said that the information gathered in the next 30 days “will help Congress make informed decisions about a potential pay-out requirement and allow universities to show what they can accomplish on their own initiative.”

University officials expressed surprise at the broad information request and concern about Congress mandating how they use their endowments.

“I believe that Senator Baucus’s and Grassley’s intentions may be admirable,” said Robert J. Birgeneau, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, “but understanding university finances is an extremely complex matter, especially in public colleges and universities.” Berkeley’s endowment is roughly \$3 billion.

Henry S. Bienen, president of Northwestern University, in Evanston, Ill., said that while he believed that putting more information into the open “will help eliminate many myths and misunderstandings,” he rejected the proposal that universities be required to spend 5 percent of their endowment assets each year.

“Universities are not like foundations,” Dr. Bienen said. “They have operating budgets which they cannot easily adjust with the ups and downs of markets. They cannot easily turn off spigots.” Northwestern, thanks to a recent cash infusion, now has a nearly \$7 billion endowment.

University officials noted that an economic downturn would reduce the returns on endowments while creating more demand for financial aid. “People have got used to the last few years of wonderful endowment growth,” Dr. Bienen added. “It does not always happen.”

Lynne Munson, an adjunct research fellow at the Center for College Affordability and Productivity and a vocal critic of college spending practices, said the committee’s request was “unprecedented but important, because colleges and universities have kept endowment spending secret for so long.”

“Parents, donors and all taxpayers deserve to know how these tax-free endowment funds are being spent,”

Ms. Munson said.

Although the Senate letter is not a subpoena, a spokeswoman for the committee said that it was rare for a nonprofit entity not to cooperate with a request for information.

College tuition has been rising faster than inflation and colleges have adopted complicated aid programs and discounts that have made the pricing of an undergraduate education at an elite college as complicated and varied as the pricing of airline seats.

Most colleges have far lower endowments and charge less than the ones the committee is addressing.

The committee’s letter, asking for detailed financial information from the universities and colleges across a decade, signaled that lawmakers plan to get deeply into pricing policies. It asks for both the sticker price of tuition and the average and median prices paid by students year by year for 10 years.

The committee questioned how the colleges recruit low-income students and how much they spend on these efforts. It also asked who decides when tuition increases are necessary.

In the matter of endowments, lawmakers sought year-by-year growth

and investment returns and fees paid to investment advisers.

The senators moved a day after the National Association of College and University Business Officers released its annual endowment study, which showed that the 76 colleges and universities with endowments of \$1 billion or more had seen their value rise 21 percent over the previous year. Despite good returns, however, they spent on average only 4.4 percent of their endowments.

Mr. Baucus and Mr. Grassley noted the “explosive” growth and said, “That is good news because much good can be done now.”

IAP Beard-Growing: Bold New Movement In Self-Expression?

MITstache, from Page 1

his genetic endowment (blond and Danish). “It’s not just that it’s slow growing, but it’s also sparse,” he complained. “All I’ve noticed is that no one’s noticed.”

Fogg says that because of the thinness of his beard, he’s trying for the “creepiest mustache” category — or “pedi-stache” — to which end he has downloaded pictures of pedophiles for reference.

“I’m not, like, looking for pedophiles so I can be molested,” he said to general cackling. “I’m just trying to look like one.”

The final pageant, to be held on Sunday in East Campus’s Talbot Lounge at 2 p.m., will feature “celebrity judges” including admissions officer and former Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann ’00. But the MITstache Web site emphasizes that self-esteem — not competition — is the goal. “Really we’re ALL winners,” it says.

Though MITstache is the first event of its kind to occur on campus in recent memory, it follows in a quasi-tradition of collegiate beard cultivation; Vanderbilt, Tufts, Stanford, and Georgetown Universities have all held their own mustache and beard competitions in the past few years. The New York City Beard and Mustache Championships, held in 2006, attracted hundreds of spectators.

For Aaron Perlut, director of the American Mustache Institute, a mustache advocacy group, the popularity of mustache competitions — often for charity — prefigures a return to glory for the maligned face ornament. “We now have a generation that is very self-expressive. It’s creating a new movement,” Perlut said.


Perlut added that discrimination against facial hair is still real. “Most recruiters will tell you that you are far better off going into a job interview clean-shaven,” he said.

But the situation is slightly different at MIT. “Most of us are engineer-

ing majors, and for most engineers, they stuff you into a corner and tend not to worry so much about how you look,” Richard A. Ott G said.

The more pressing matter at the recent Sunday meeting was who, aside from McGann, would be a celebrity judge.




“We need a blind judge that will just touch our faces,” somebody suggested.



They could solve nature's biggest mystery if they only had a clue.

STRANGE WILDERNESS

StrangeWildernessMovie.com



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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 1



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OMNITURE®

MIT Community Explores Student Projects at Expo

Eta Kappa Nu, the honor society for Electrical Engineering and Computer Science students, held its annual Student Project Expo yesterday afternoon in the Vannevar Bush Room.

(clockwise from right)

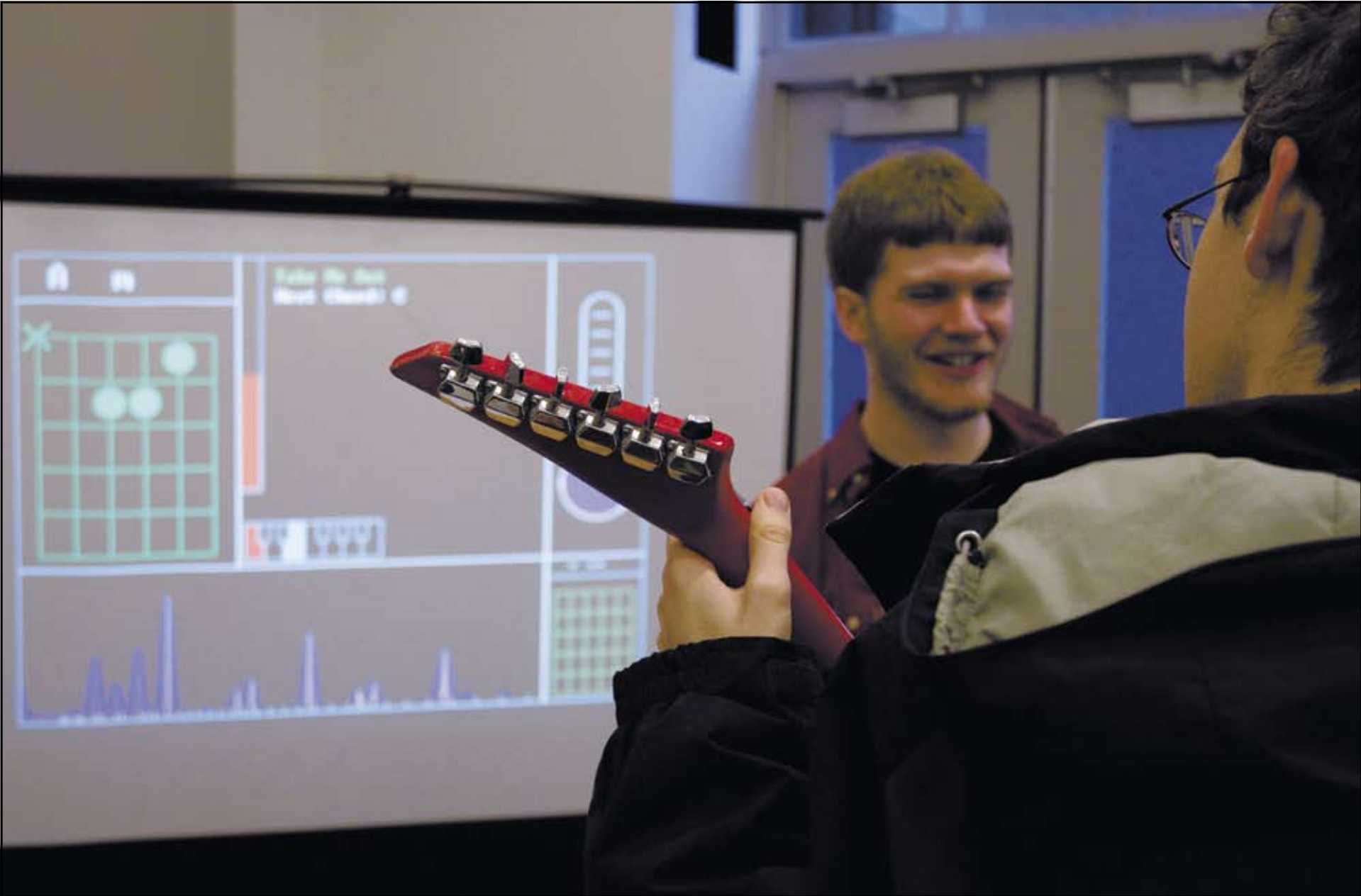
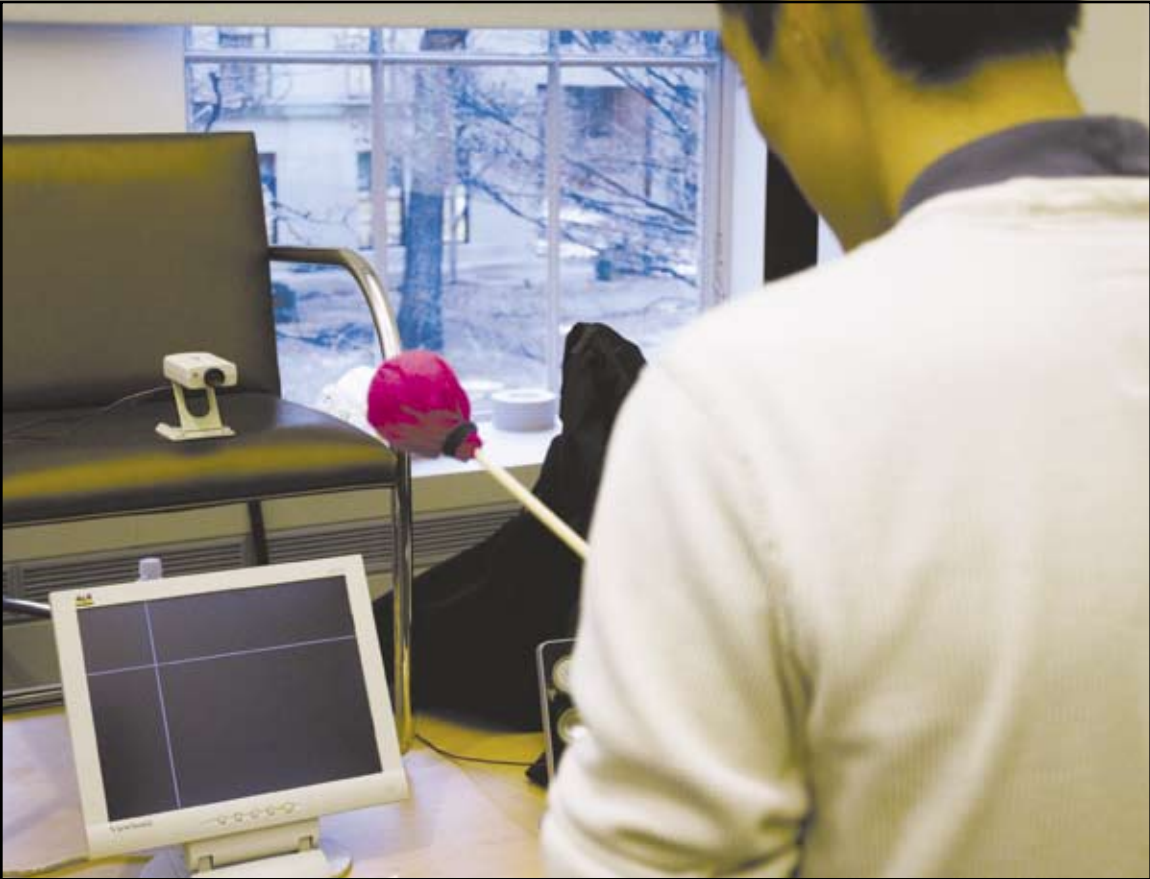
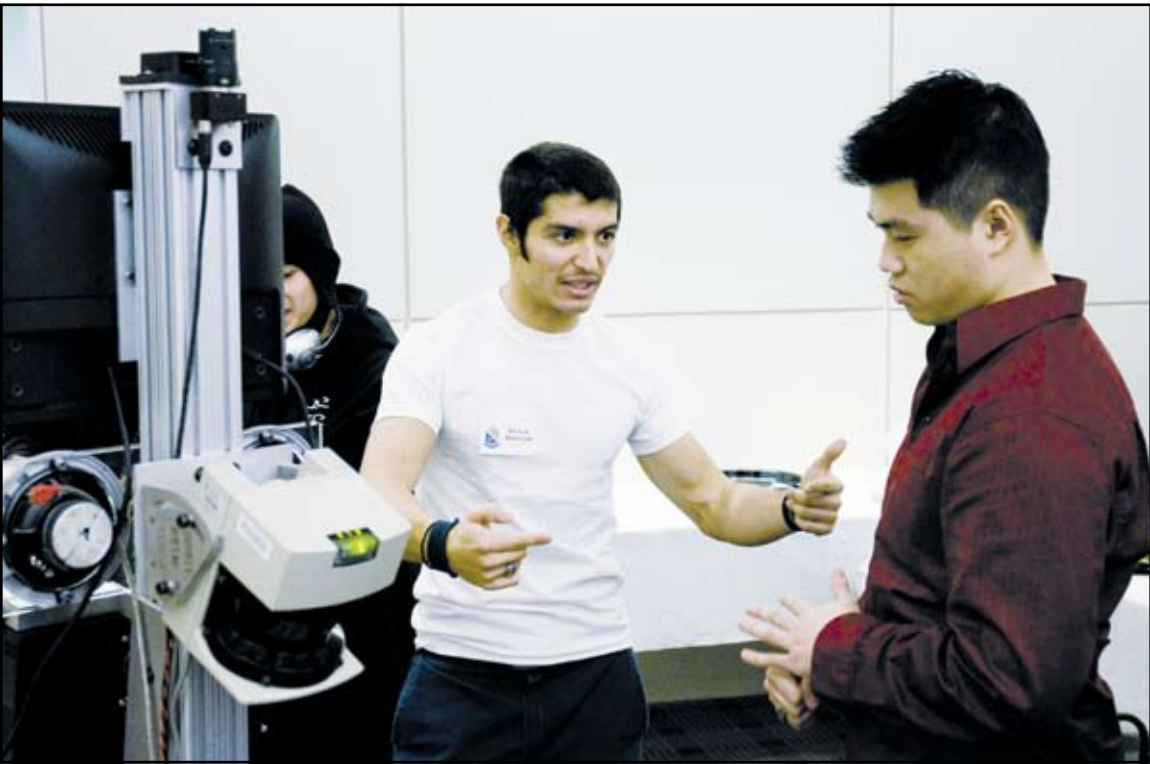
Patrick R. Barragan '08 explains the navigation methods of "Tour Bot" to an Expo attendee. The project aims to build a robot capable of providing autonomous tours of the MIT campus.

Kevin Y. Wang '08 plays with the "Conductor Hero" project. The game plays a pre-recorded song, following the conductor's direction much like an orchestra would.

Joshua A. Horowitz '10 (right) tries out "SNGH Is Not Guitar Hero." The game, created by Rhys A. Hiltner '09 (center) and Ruth A. Shewmon '08 (not pictured), allows players to use a standard electric guitar.

Praveen Subramani '09 (top) and Xiao Xiao '09 (center) explain the operation of their project, "Pittura Viva," to EECS Professor Seth Teller (not pictured) as his daughter Sophia (bottom) plays with the program's interface.

Photography by Omari Stephens



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News Briefs, Continued

Briefs, from Page 1

University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences offers a 100 megabyte quota which applies towards both stored files and e-mail messages.

Zacheiss said that the quota increase would probably not, in the short term, require MIT to buy any additional storage space. The *athena.mit.edu* AFS cell has 12 terabytes of available space, and about 8 terabytes are currently in use, Zacheiss said.

The disk quota was last increased in 2004, when it was doubled from 500 megabytes to 1 gigabyte. The quota for e-mail messages stored on MIT's IMAP servers will remain at 1 gigabyte; and the quota for the *win.mit.edu* WinAthena distributed file system will remain at 2 gigabytes, Zacheiss said. The Athena network infrastructure has evolved substantially since the last quota increase, and Zacheiss said that the four-year delay between this increase and the last was in part caused by a desire to wait for several infrastructure changes to settle.

In 1989, Athena users were allotted only 1.2 megabytes, or slightly less than could be fit on a high-density floppy disk. This limit has since increased — see the table to the right for a history.

—Michael McGraw-Herdeg

Athena Quotas Over Time

Date quota took effect	Quota size
Sept. 1, 1989	1.2 MB
July 1, 1992	2.2 MB
Aug. 20, 1993	5 MB
Aug. 4, 1994	10 MB
April 4, 1996	12.5 MB
Aug. 15, 1997	15 MB
Nov. 17, 1998	20 MB
Aug. 15, 1999	30 MB
March 17, 2000	50 MB
Aug. 15, 2001	100 MB
Aug. 15, 2002	200 MB
July 27, 2003	500 MB
July 30, 2004	1 GB
Feb. 5, 2008	1.5 GB

SOURCE: GARRY P. ZACHEISS '00, INFORMATION SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

The Athena disk quota is set to increase by 50 percent from 1 gigabyte to 1.5 gigabytes on Feb. 5, 2008. After the increase takes effect next Tuesday, the quota will be 1,250 times its size 19 years ago.

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Toscanini's Reopens, Starts to Pay \$167,000 Tax Bill

Toscanini's, from Page 1

said that this was a first, in terms of a community fundraising drive to pay off a proportion of a tax debt," said Robert R. Bliss, a spokesman for the Department of Revenue.

Toscanini's failed to pay some of its taxes between 2000 and 2005

because the business was poorly organized, Rancatore told *The Tech* last week. In 2002, the shop was closed for one day because of approximately \$76,000 of debt; at the time, Rancatore negotiated an agreement to repay the back taxes and reopen the store. But over the next six years, the debt grew, until

the business was closed again.

Bliss said that the Department of Revenue seizes about 80 businesses a year. Seizure is typically the last step the department takes to recover debt, he said. After a business is seized, its possessions are auctioned off, generally raising only "pennies on the dollar"

and rarely covering the business's tax debt, he said. The Department of Revenue prefers to negotiate repayment agreements, as it did with Toscanini's, because a running business is more likely to be able to earn income that can be used to pay off those debts. Bliss said that he could not disclose details of the

agreement under which Toscanini's is repaying its taxes and has been allowed to reopen.

Bliss said that the Department of Revenue would be closely monitoring how Toscanini's followed its repayment plan.

"They need to make this one work," Bliss said.



Jen Zink is back at work on Monday, Jan. 28 after Toscanini's was closed for several days due to nonpayment of taxes.

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      nextKApp=true;  
      break;  
    }  
  }  
}  
  
if(nextKApp) {  
  y = i;  
  y += Up to $50,000 in Cash and Prizes  
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- **Intel Tech Talk**
Tuesday February 5, 2008, 11:30am-1:00pm
Location: 36-428
- **Start-Up Panel**
Tuesday February 5, 2008, 6:00-8:00pm
Location: 4-270
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- **IT Business Panel**
Thursday February 7, 2008, 7:00-9:00pm
Location: 6-120
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Research, from Page 1

In 2005, the most recent data available, the United States invested 2.6 percent of its gross domestic product in research and develop-

"Since the early 1990s, the tax credit for R&D faced a series of annual renewals and budgetary prob-

"But that does come at the cost of individual research projects," Kim said. "For the more senior scientists, Europe, and more recently, Asia, has more stable funding environments."

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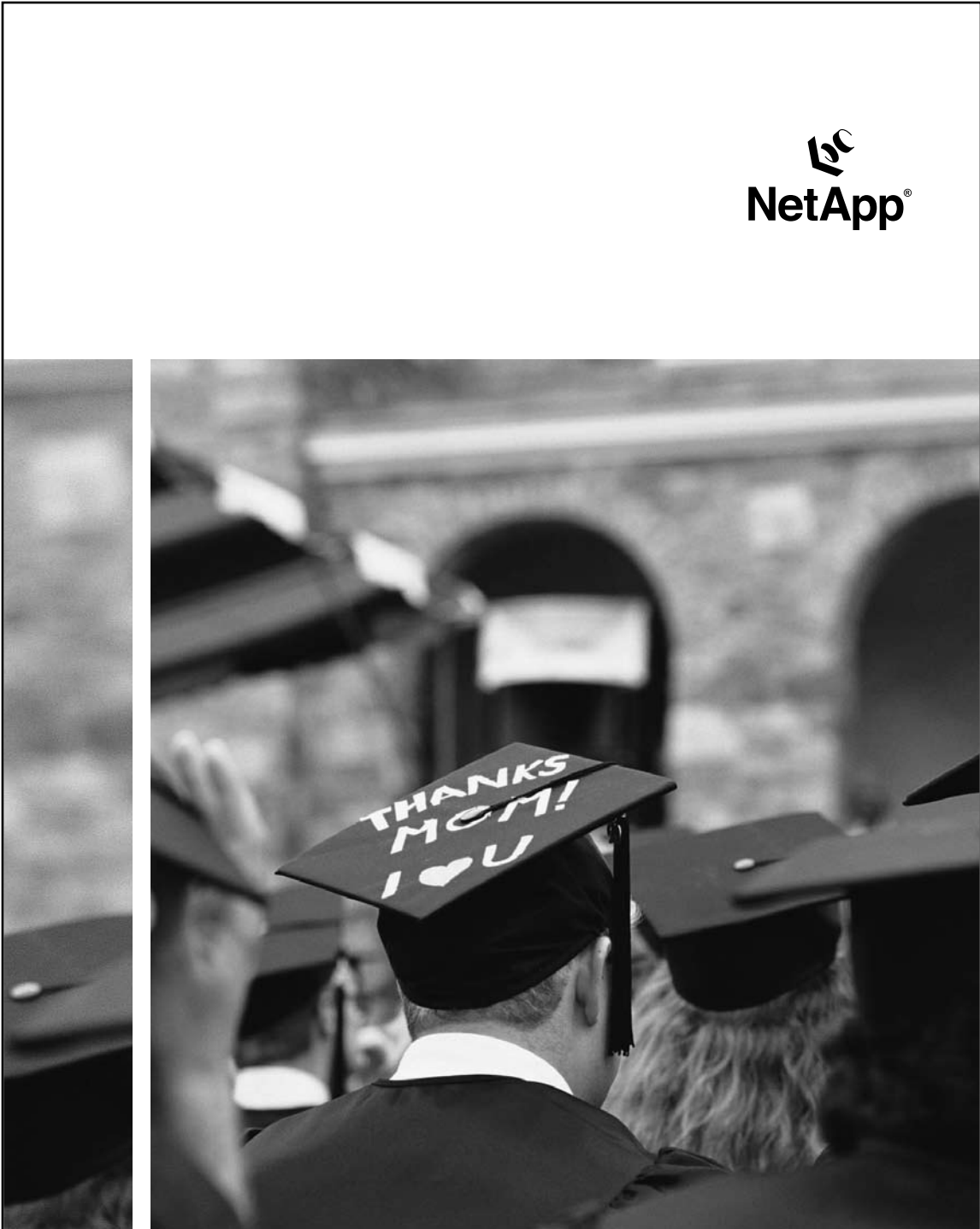
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MIT Arab Students
Speak in Jerusalem,
Promote Education

By Matthew Kalman
THE BOSTON GLOBE

JERUSALEM

The two MIT students stood in the austere surroundings of a 130-year-old high school in the historic Old City of Jerusalem, pitching a high-tech future that reached across cultural and national boundaries.

In the first gathering of its kind here Wednesday, Jan. 23, Ibrahim K. Kanan '08 and Rameez A. Qudsi G urged more than 200 Palestinian students, segregated by gender in keeping with Muslim tradition, to dream big and apply to elite Western colleges like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Not only will education transform their lives, they told the students, but their presence on campus will enrich the schools and their communities.

"We don't see enough students like us on campuses," Kanan, a 21-year-old mechanical engineering senior who was born in New Jersey to Palestinian parents, said as he and Qudsi guided the enthusiastic audience from 10 high schools through MIT's admissions process in English and Arabic.

"You have the chance to take your culture to the leaders of tomorrow," he said. "You have the chance to change the image of Palestine in America. You can help your country by going to those colleges, meeting the future leaders, and taking from the resources they have in the United States. Then you can come back here and help our people."

The two are among seven members of MIT's Arab Students' Organization on a weeklong trip through eight Middle Eastern countries in a hunt for untapped potential.

The students believe it is the only organized project of its kind, although MIT encourages foreign alumni to introduce high school students back home to the possibility of studying in the United States.

For this trip, students raised most of the money themselves, and MIT is covering the balance and helping to provide contacts and other support.

MIT says that over the past four years, it has accepted, on average, about 10 undergraduate students a year from Arab countries, and that students from those counties account

for about 10 percent of MIT's international undergraduate population. The school does not have precise figures for the number of Arab-Americans in the domestic student population.

MIT officials applaud the Arab students' Middle East initiative.

"I think it's a great idea," said Stuart Schmill '86, interim director of admissions, who said his office had helped the students prepare for the trip and connected them with MIT alumni in several countries. "There's a lot of talent across that region we'd like to develop."

In little over a week, Kanan and Qudsi visited Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as East Jerusalem. In their final stop Saturday, in the West Bank town of Ramallah, they were scheduled to meet local students and hold a video conference with students in the Gaza Strip.

Four more colleagues visited Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing. A third MIT student did not come to Jerusalem because she is a Syrian national who would probably have been barred from entry by the Israelis. Kanan and Qudsi were detained for much of Tuesday, Jan. 22 by Israeli security officials as they crossed the Allenby Bridge from Jordan to the West Bank.

"It was a bit frustrating," Kanan said, though they anticipated delays because they had traveled to Syria and Lebanon.

Kanan and Qudsi said their motivation in starting the traveling program is their desire to see more students from the Middle East in top American universities as relations between the West and much of the Arab world have suffered.

"I think it's a two-way street," said Qudsi, a 23-year-old graduate student in health sciences and technology who was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and grew up in New York. "I want people in the U.S. to get exposed to people who live in the Middle East and then learn about the Middle East through them."

In Jerusalem, Kanan and Qudsi were hosted by Amal Alayan '93, an MIT alumna and venture capital pioneer in the Arab world. She volunteers as an educational counselor to interview potential applicants and said she hoped the road show would broaden the appeal of MIT and other top U.S. colleges for Arab students from conservative, traditional homes.

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Solution to Sudoku
from page 6

8	1	2	3	7	6	4	5	9
4	7	6	9	2	5	3	8	1
3	5	9	1	4	8	2	6	7
6	2	1	8	3	9	7	4	5
5	3	4	7	1	2	6	9	8
9	8	7	6	5	4	1	3	2
7	6	8	2	9	3	5	1	4
2	9	5	4	6	1	8	7	3
1	4	3	5	8	7	9	2	6

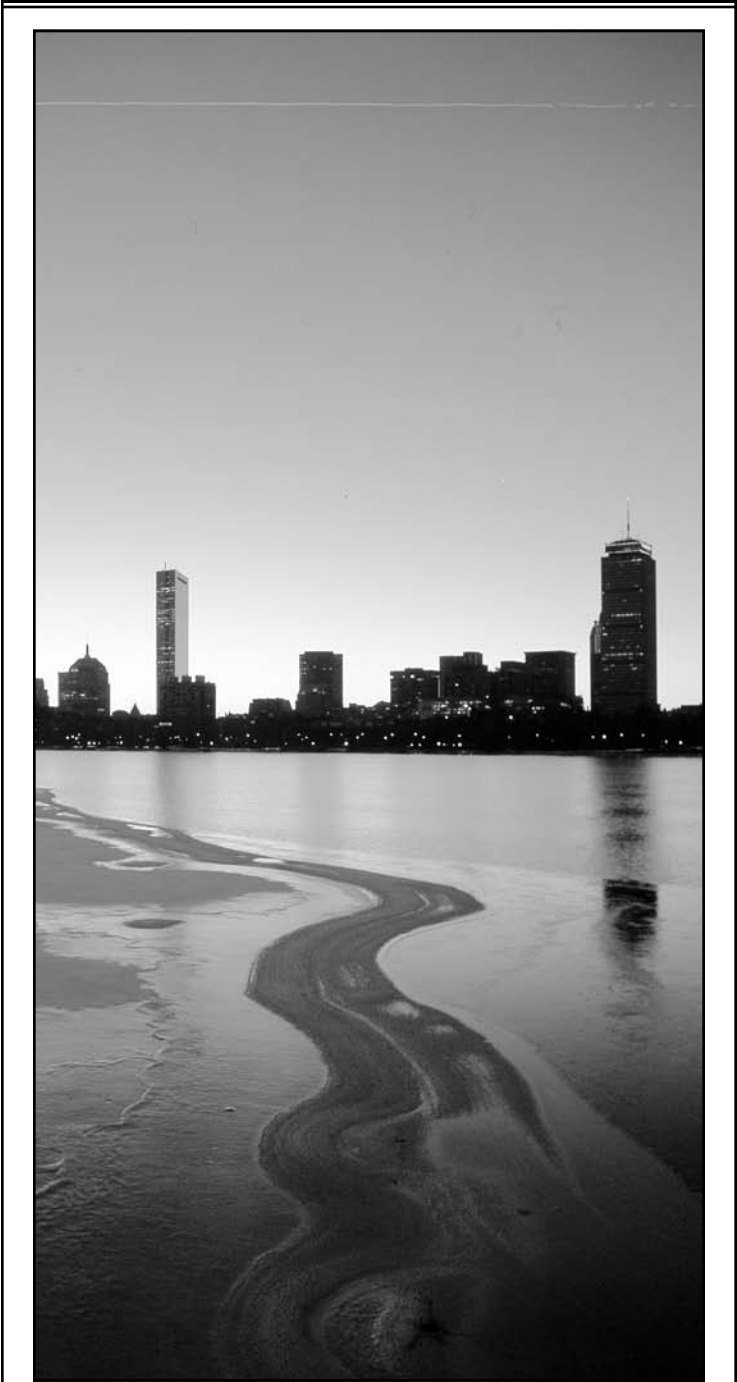
Solution to Crossword
from page 7

T	A	C	T	C	O	M	O	B	L	A	D	E				
A	R	L	O	O	V	A	L	O	A	S	E	S				
R	E	A	D	R	U	L	E	O	M	E	N	S				
O	N	M	O	O	N	L	I	G	H	T	B	A	Y			
S	A	P	V	E	E	A	E	S								
			D	I	A	S	T	O	L	E	W	E	N			
P	A	E	A	N	I	R	E	B	O	R	E					
O	N	T	H	E	W	A	T	E	R	F	R	O	N	T		
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A	N	E	A	R	A	M	I	D	N	U	N	S				
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ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH
The Boston skyline at dawn on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Ice covered the surface of the Charles River for much of January.

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Elena Glassman with her 1948 Zenith AM-FM-FM Dual Speaker Radio [ST06]

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Giants Must Do More Than Restrict Moss

Pats Already Greater Than 1972 Dolphins
NFL, from Page 20

what he's capable of doing. Going back to weeks 12 and 13, Randy Moss was shut down by the Eagles' and Ravens' defenses, which was one reason they were about to keep the game so close for so long. If you were a head coach watching this, it's clear what you would focus on: stopping Moss.

The Jaguars and Chargers both did just that, holding Moss to only two catches and 32 yards over those two games. But just like the 16 teams before them, they couldn't come out on top in the end.

Assuming the Giants follow a similar path, it'll open up the field for the true difference maker on the Patriots offense, Wes Welker. The talented slot receiver has stepped up big when the Patriots have needed him, finding room in the middle of

zone defenses.

A Patriots victory would inflame a debate over who is the greatest team in NFL history, a debate that actually began months ago. While people are sure to argue both ways on this, I'll reiterate what Bob Costas pointed out earlier this week. In going 14-0 in the 1972 regular season, can you guess the best record that a Dolphins opponent had? 8-6. Seriously. Sure they went on to win three tough games in the playoffs, but the 1972 Dolphins just don't compare. This year's Patriots have already beaten playoff teams eight times, including the defending Super Bowl champions on the road.

I'm sure they won't be treating Sunday's game as a formality, but let's be honest, the Patriots are the best team in football ... ever.

Our pick: Patriots over Giants



ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH

David S. Baumgartner '08 prepares to swing during the MIT squash match against Fordham University on Jan. 26. Although Baumgartner defeated his opponent, MIT lost 7-2.

The Tech's Athlete of the Week:

Kimberly E. Soo Hoo '08

Women's basketball senior captain Kimberly E. Soo Hoo '08 set the Institute record for assists in a career after dishing out seven assists in MIT's 59-49 victory over Mount Holyoke College on Saturday. The previous career record was 349.

In addition to her record-breaking performance, Soo Hoo scored eight points, going six for eight from the free-throw line and grabbing five rebounds.

After being down 30-20 at the half, the Engineers went on a 15-4 run to take the lead. Samia A. Mahjub G led the Engineers with 18 points and 11 rebounds, helping MIT outscore Mount Holyoke by 20 in the second half to earn their first conference win of the season.

Soo Hoo has led the team in assists in each of her first three years at MIT and is on pace to do so again this year. She looks to add to the record tonight as MIT hosts conference rival Wheaton College.

—Shreyes Seshasai, Sports Editor

Men's Team Dominates Relays

Swimming, from Page 20

teammate Cummings (48.74 seconds).

A pair of narrow victories that went the Engineers' way also had a great effect on the final outcome. Racz secured crucial first-place points in the 100-yard breaststroke by beating Tufts' James Longhurst by just 0.18 seconds, while Cummings was fastest in the 50-yard freestyle by a slim 0.04 seconds over the Jumbos' Andrew Shields.

MIT once again dominated in the relay events, as it has all sea-

son. Jeffrey Y. Zhou '10 led off the 400-yard medley relay, followed by Racz, Sepp, and Cummings, and the crew touched the wall first with a time of 3:33.42. Cummings, Zhou, and Peter J. Wellings '10 were then anchored by Charpentier in the 200-yard freestyle relay, which the Engineers won with a time of 1:26.58.

Freshman Michael J. Dobson '11, who set the Institute record in the 1,000-yard freestyle less than one week ago with a time of 9:47.07, was yet again a force in the distance freestyle events. The na-

tive of Houston, Texas won both the 500-yard (4:48.67) and 1,000-yard (9:56.22) freestyle to continue his phenomenal rookie campaign.

MIT's other victories included Racz in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:12.16) and Charpentier in the 200-yard freestyle (1:46.04).

Why this is Game of the Week?

Despite their youth, MIT was able to hold on for a close victory against a solid Tufts team, as sophomores Racz and Cummings came through in the clutch with very narrow victories.

SCOREBOARD		
Men's Basketball		
Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008		
MIT (11-6, 2-2 NEWMAC ¹)		79
Newbury College (8-6)		60
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
MIT (12-6, 3-2)		87
Clark College (9-8, 4-2)		80
Women's Basketball		
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008		
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (8-7, 3-2)		65
MIT (7-8, 0-4)		42
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
Mount Holyoke College (3-13, 0-5)		49
MIT (8-8, 1-4)		59
Women's Gymnastics		
Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008		
Bowling Green State University		191.475
University of Bridgeport		188.675
Brown University		185.825
MIT		180.600
West Chester University		174.225
Men's Ice Hockey		
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008		
Daniel Webster College (3-11-1)		0
MIT (9-1-0, 6-1-0 NECHA ² Conf. A East)		7
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
MIT (9-2-0, 6-2-0)		2
University of Vermont (9-8-2, 5-3-0)		3
Women's Ice Hockey		
Friday, Jan. 25, 2008		
MIT (0-10-1, 0-9-1 ECAC ³ East)		1
UMass-Boston (9-7-0, 7-4-0)		4
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
MIT (0-11-1, 0-10-1)		0
Saint Anselm College (16-1-0, 12-0-0)		2
Men's Swimming and Diving		
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
MIT (6-1)		154
Tufts University (4-2)		144
Women's Swimming and Diving		
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
MIT (6-3)		136
Tufts University (4-2)		164
Squash		
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
Fordham University (2-9)		7
MIT (1-7)		2
Men's Volleyball		
Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008		
MIT (1-2, 1-1 NECVA NE ⁴)		2
Emmanuel College (3-0, 2-0)		3
Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008		
Elms College (0-2, 0-2)		1
MIT (2-2, 2-1)		3
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
MIT (3-2, 2-1)		3
Hunter College (4-2)		0
MIT (3-3, 2-1)		2
Carthage College (6-2)		3
Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008		
MIT (3-4, 2-1)		1
Nazareth (7-2)		3
Wrestling		
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008		
Bridgewater State College (9-4)		39
MIT (0-14)		6
Norwich University (6-9)		36
MIT (0-14)		21
Plymouth State University (5-10-1)		35
MIT (0-14)		19

¹New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
²NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association
³Eastern College Athletic Conference
⁴North East Collegiate Volleyball Association, New England Division

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SPORTS

Patriots Face Final Challenge
In Giants on Road to Perfection

By Shreyes Seshasai
SPORTS EDITOR

Whether you're interested in football or not, you'll be watching Sunday night as the New England Patriots face off against the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII. Not because you think it'll be a close football game (which it will be), and not because of the commercials (which always disappoint).

You'll tune in because it'll be a chance to witness history, a chance to see the coronation of the greatest football team in history.

The Patriots are on the brink of

sports immortality, led by arguably the best coach of his generation and certainly the most polished quarterback since Montana (yes, Tom, you know you've made it big when a camera is more interested in your foot than in your supermodel girlfriend).

If you're a Giants fan, the one thing you can hold on to is the fact that expectations have never been lower going into a Super Bowl. You can't lose (unless of course you're foolish enough to bet for the Giants to make the spread).

If the Giants somehow manage to win this game, then you've just witnessed the greatest upset in sports since Herb Brooks' squad took down

the Soviets in 1980. If they don't, well, at least they "kept it close."

I could try to compare numbers for you, but to save some time, I'll summarize: Patriots win, no-contest. New England is better in every facet of the game, and no matter what teams throw at them, they still find a way to win.

The advantage extends beyond just the field too, up to the front offices. Just consider the additions the Patriots made before the season began.

Randy Moss has been an important factor in these playoffs not for what he's physically done, but for

NFL, Page 19

Game of the Week: 15th
Ranked Men, Despite
Youth, Hold Off Tufts

By Jeff Lemieux
DAPER STAFF

MIT's 15th-ranked men's swimming and diving team improved its dual meet record to 6-1 Saturday afternoon, as the visiting Engineers edged past Tufts University, 154-144.

Laurent Charpentier '09, Luke R. Cummings '10, Rastislav Racz '10, and Toomas R. Sepp '11 were each a part of three victories to help lead MIT against the Jumbos, who fell to 4-2 after their second consecutive loss.

A trio of 1-2 finishes proved

vital for the Engineers in helping to keep their slim advantage. MIT swept the top two spots in both the 100-yard and 200-yard butterfly events, led by rookie Sepp with times of 53.21 seconds and 2:00.99, respectively. He was followed by Charpentier in the 100 (54.57 seconds) and Deke Hu '09 in the 200 (2:03.31), earning Tech a majority of the events' points. The Cardinal and Gray also took first and second-place in the 100-yard freestyle, as Charpentier (48.62 seconds) finished just ahead of

Swimming, Page 19

MIT Competes at BU Terrier Invitational



Members of the MIT track and field teams competed at the BU Terrier Invitational this past Friday and Saturday. The meet, which was held at Boston University, provided thousands of athletes an opportunity to run fast times against fast competition on one of New England's few banked tracks.

(clockwise from left)

MIT pole vault coach Nathan B. Ball '05 competes in the pole vault. Ball placed third in the competition after clearing 4.80 meters (15' 9").

Jeremiah R. Cohen '09 (left) competes in the mile run. Cohen placed 25th of 97 runners with a time of 4:16.98. The fastest finisher completed the mile in 3:59.50.

Stephen A. Morton '10 (far right) strides down the final straight in the 200-meter dash. Morton finished the race in 22.45 seconds, placing 16th of the 112 competitors in the event. Morton also placed third overall in the long jump with a distance of 22' 3".

Photography by Omari Stephens

